

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 18-22 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 14 and 25-48 were previously canceled without prejudice.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17 and 23 are amended, and new claims 49-51 are presented. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17, 23 and 49-51 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17, 23, 49, 50 and 51 are independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

II. Objections to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, in particular the Examiner states that the term "predetermined value" in claim 2 is not found in the specification, and the Examiner is proceeding with the understanding that the reference is to the "predetermined threshold value." Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 2 overcomes the objection.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasper et al (U.S.P. 5,278,943) in view of Swaminathan et al (U.S.P. 5,751,903).

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 18-22 and 24 without prejudice and accordingly requests withdrawal of the rejection as to those claims.

Claim 3 is amended to correct an informality in the claim. With regard to the rejection of claim 3, applicant submits that the claim is directed to a speech information

processing method of generating a speech segment dictionary for holding a plurality of speech segments. In the claimed method, quantization code books are constructed using one or more speech segments, and a speech segment is encoded using one of the constructed quantization code books, and the encoded speech segment is stored in the speech segment dictionary.

Applicant submits that the cited reference of Gasper et al discloses conversion of an input text to a list of segments by decomposing the text into its equivalent phonetic features, and creating and storing the segmentation data using any desired encoding method. However, applicant submits that Gasper does not teach or suggest constructing quantization code books using one or more speech segments. Further, applicant submits that Gasper is silent on encoding a speech segment using one of the constructed quantization code books and storing the encoded speech segment in the speech segment dictionary.

Accordingly applicant submits that the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by Gasper.

Applicant submits that Swaminathan et al discloses an encoding and decoding method for digitized speech signals by selectively using backward prediction for the short-time predictor parameters and fixed codebook gain of a speech signal. However, applicant submits that Swaminathan does not teach or suggest constructing quantization code books using one or more speech segments. Accordingly, applicant submits that the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by Gasper in view of Swaminathan.

Applicant submits that the arguments above with regard to claim 3 also apply to claim 15 as amended, and request withdrawal of the rejection as to claim 15.

New claims 49, 50 and 51 are apparatus claims that correspond generally to method claims 2, 3 and 15 respectively and are patentable for the same reasons.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 is allowed and that claims 5, 11, 17 and 23 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 17 are independent claims and therefore the applicant does not understand the objection and requests withdrawal of the objection. Dependent claims 11 and 23 are hereby amended to include the limitations of the base claim, and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Examiner has provided reasons for allowable subject matter and has provided an understanding of the claim requirements. Allowable claims 5 and 17 are hereby amended to more clearly claim the subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

V. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

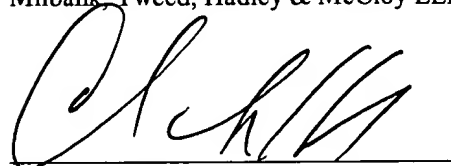
VI. Authorization

Applicant includes herewith a petition for an extension of time. In the event that the Commissioner finds that an additional fee is required, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any require fee, or credit any overage to the Deposit Account of Milbank Tweed (13-3250). A duplicate of this page is included.

PATENT

Docket No.: ~~36409-00100~~

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris L. Holm", written over a horizontal line.

Chris L. Holm
Reg. No.: 39,227

April 24, 2003

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